

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

IN RE:

Patricia Poller, RN R-14598

24 Corn Cake Lane

Stamford, CT 06905

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

AUG 5 1985

INVESTIGATION
MEDICAL
QUALITY ASSURANCE

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing, (hereafter the "Board"), was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Statement of Charges dated October 28, 1983.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Board issued a Notice of Hearing. The Notice of Hearing provided that the hearing would take place on November 10, 1983 in the State Armory at 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record.

FACTS

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence at the above hearing, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Patricia Poller, respondent, was at all pertinent time licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse in Connecticut with registration number RN-14598.

2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the respondent was provided a full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license.

3. The respondent while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital, (1) on or about January 12, 1983, diverted for her own use two doses of the controlled substance, Valium; (2) on or about January 24, 1983, diverted for her own use two doses of the controlled substance Librium; (3) on or about January 25, 1983 diverted for her own use a dose of the controlled substance Percocet; from on or about September of 1982 and continuing until February 1, 1983 diverted the controlled substances Oxycodone, Valium, and/or Librium for her own use.

4. The activities referenced in paragraph three (3) were uncovered by Drug Control Agents Sandra C. Schweitzer and Lionel Roberge, Department of Consumer Protection during an investigation conducted during January and February, 1983;

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5. The First Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on or about January 12, 1983, while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital, by diverting for her own use two doses of the controlled substance Valium.

In pertinent, Section 20-99(b) forbids illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

The Board determines that the accepted standards of medication administration require that medications be removed from the medication room - patient supply only for administration to patient according to physician orders.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the First Count.

6. The Second Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on or about January 24, 1983, while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital by diverting for her own use two doses of the controlled substance Librium.

In pertinent part, Section 20-99(b) forbids illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

The Board determines that the respondent on or about January 24, 1983, while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital diverted for her own use two doses of the controlled substance Librium. The accepted standards of medication administration require that medications be removed from the medication room - patient supply only for administration to a patient according to physician orders.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Second Count.

7. The Third Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on or about January 25, 1983 while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital, by diverting for her own use a dose of the controlled substance Percocet.

In pertinent part, Section 20-99(b) forbids illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

The Board determines that the respondent on or about January 25, 1983, while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital, diverted for her own use a dose of the controlled substance Percocet. The accepted standards of medication administration require that medications be removed from the medication room - patient supply only for administration to a patient according to physician orders.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Third Count.

8. The Fourth Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) from on or about September of 1982 and continuing until February 1, 1983, while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital by diverting the controlled substances Oxycodone, Valium and/or Librium for her own use.

In pertinent part, Section 20-99(b) forbids illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

The Board determines that the respondent from on or about September of 1982 and continuing until February 1, 1983 while employed as a nurse at Stamford Hospital diverted the controlled substances Oxycodone, Valium and/or Librium for her own use. The accepted standards of medication administration require that medications be removed from the medication room - patient supply only/for administration to a patient according to physician orders.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Fourth Count.

ORDER

9. It is the unanimous decision of those members of the Board of Examiners for Nursing who were present and voting that:
 - a. The license of the respondent be suspended for a minimum period of one year, determined as follows:
 - i. as to the First Count, suspension, for a minimum period of one year
 - ii. as to the Second Count, suspension, for a minimum of period of one year
 - iii. as to the Third Count, suspension, for a minimum period of one year
 - iv. as to the Fourth Count, suspension, for a minimum period of one year
 - v. all counts are to run concurrently.

The said period of suspension shall commence on August 15, 1985.

- c. At the end of the one year specified in (a) the respondent may request reinstatement of her license in writing and submit supportive documentation that she is drug free, has engaged in counseling with a licensed therapist and is physically and psychologically competent to resume the practice of nursing. Documentation must be current to within one month of the application for reinstatement and be submitted directly from the therapist to the Board of Examiners for Nursing, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

10. The respondent, Patricia Poller, is hereby directed to surrender her license and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing at 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106 on or before August 15, 1985.

11. The Board of Examiners for Nursing herewith advises the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at *New Hartford*, Connecticut, this *31st* day
of *July*, 19*55*.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY: *Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N.*

Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairman